

THE DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND ARCHAEOLOGY

DEVELOPMENT STUDIES INTERDISCIPLINARY PROGRAM

DEST 401: Winter 2020

Special Topics: Political Economy and Ecology of Agriculture, Food and the Environment

Tue/Thur 12:30 PM-1:45 PM

Room: SA 147

Instructor: Ben McKay

Office: ES756

Office Hours: 11am-12pm Tues/Thur or by appointment¹

Email: ben.mckay@ucalgary.ca

Prerequisite(s): Development Studies 393.

Course Description:

This course introduces students to the inter-linked theoretical and methodological foundations of critical agrarian studies, critical environmental studies, and the political economy of food. Students will become familiar with the necessary theoretical and analytical tools required to develop a critical understanding of contemporary processes of agrarian and environmental change, including environmental degradation, rural resource access and use, political economy of food, and the key socio-political and economic processes facing the rural world. This course does not take the rural world in isolation, but rather in an interlinked manner: rural-urban and agricultural-industry linkages. Appropriate comparisons will be made between developing and developed countries. The analytical starting point to tackle these issues is a critical political economy framework, meaning that the emphasis will be on the political economic power dynamics that frame and cut across agrarian, food and environmental issues.

Learning Outcomes:

After taking this course, students will have developed:

- An understanding of the major theoretical and methodological traditions in agrarian political economy and ecology, seen in overlapping/synergistic or conflicting/competing manners
- A conceptual framework which recognizes that all agrarian, food and environmental issues arise from a combination of economic, political, cultural and natural processes;
- A critical perspective on the political and economic structures that shape local, national and international agrarian, food and environmental questions.
- An overview of relevant contemporary issues surrounding agriculture, the environment and their interactions
- Their ability to engage in constructive criticism
- Their presentation and group work skills

¹ Office hours may vary, so students are encouraged to make an appointment.

Assessment:

1- Pop-quizzes: 10% (unannounced)

A total of 5 pop-quizzes/in-class assignments will be held unannounced throughout the semester, each worth 2% of your final grade. These will be based on the required readings assigned for that week, so make sure you come to class prepared and having done the required readings.

2- Mid-term Exam #1: 25%

Short answers and multiple choice. All materials in-class and in the readings up to and including February 6th will be covered. Mid-term will take place February 13th.

3- Mid-term Exam #2: 25%

Short answers and multiple choice. All materials in-class and in the readings between February 25th – March 19th (inclusive) will be covered. Mid-term will take place March 26th.

4- Guest Lecture reflection: 10%

Write a 1000-word (max) reflection on the guest lecture by Haroon Akram-Lodhi (Feb. 27th). Use proper referencing style and engage with the lecture and the assigned readings. Due March 12th (upload to D2L before midnight).

5- Group Presentation: 20%

Students will be divided into groups (number of students per group will depend on class size). Each group will present on an assigned topic covered in the class. Details to be discussed in class.

6- Individual reflection: 10%

Each individual will write a 1000-word (max) reflection based on their presentation using proper referencing style.

*Late assignments will be penalized by 10% per day.

For referencing style, use Chicago author-date. For instructions see:

https://www.tandf.co.uk/journals/authors/style/reference/tf_ChicagoAD.pdf

The final mark out of 100, will then be converted to a letter grade as follows:

A+	94.9 – 100%	A	89.9 – 94.8%	A-	84.9 – 89.8%
B+	79.9 – 84.8%	B	74.9 – 79.8%	B-	70.9 – 74.8%
C+	66.9 – 70.8%	C	62.9 – 66.8%	C-	58.9 – 62.8%
D+	54.9 – 58.8%	D	49.9 – 54.8%	F	49.8 and below

Course Policies and Procedures:

Deferred Exams:

A student who is absent from a test for legitimate reasons must discuss an alternative course of action with the instructor. The instructor at their discretion may transfer the percentage weight for the test to the final examination, if there is a final examination in the course, set another test, etc. An instructor will normally make this decision on the basis of verbal information provided by the student. In the event that an instructor feels that they cannot judge the veracity of the information provided, Students must be aware that they are responsible for payment of any charge associated with the medical assessment and documentation as this service falls outside the realm of services provided by the Provincial Health Care Plan. Deferral of the final exam requires Registrar approval.

If a deferred exam is administered, the format of the exam may be different than the original exam.

Academic misconduct

The University expects Students to conduct Academic Activities with integrity and intellectual honesty and to recognize the importance of pursuing and transmitting knowledge ethically. "Academic Misconduct" includes such things as Cheating, Falsification; Plagiarism, Unauthorized Assistance and failure to comply with exam regulations or an Instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of Students completing academic assessments. Academic Misconduct is a serious form of intellectual dishonesty with significant consequences. Students who participate in, or encourage the commission of, Academic Misconduct will be subject to disciplinary action which could include Probation, Suspension, or Expulsion from the University. For more information see the Student Academic Misconduct Policy (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>)

Instructor intellectual property

Lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor includes copyright protected works under the Copyright Act and all forms of electronic or mechanical recording of lectures, laboratories, tutorials, presentations, performances, electronic (computer) information, the duplication of course material, and to the translation of recordings or transcriptions of any of these materials to another form by electronic or mechanical means by students is not permitted, except.

- As a formal accommodation as assessed by the Student Accessibility Services and only for individual private study and only at the discretion of the instructor.
- With the permission of the instructor, students without a formal accommodation may audio record lectures, provided that the student and instructor sign a release form available from departmental and faculty offices. A copy of the Release form shall be retained by the instructor and by the department in which the course is offered. Any audio recording by students is permitted only for the purposes of private study by the individual student. Students may not distribute, email or otherwise communicate these materials to any other person.

- For any other use, whether by duplication, transcription, publication, sale or transfer of recordings, written approval must be obtained from the instructor for the specific use proposed.
- Any use other than that described above (e.g. distributing, emailing or otherwise communicating these materials to any other person, constitutes academic misconduct and may result in suspension or expulsion.
- Students are encouraged to make notes of classroom discussions, lectures, demonstrations etc.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

The University of Calgary is committed to protecting the privacy of individuals who work and study at the University or who otherwise interact with the University in accordance with the standards set out in the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. The Department of Anthropology and Archaeology keeps exams and any term work not picked up for a minimum of one year after which it is destroyed. Please refer to the following link for detailed information: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip>

Academic Accommodations

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies. Students requesting an Accommodation on the basis of Disability are required to register with Student Accommodation Services (SAS) by submitting a Request for Accommodation in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf>). SAS will issue a Letter of Accommodation which must be presented to either designated contact person within the Department or the appropriate Instructors within 10 days of the beginning of term. Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their Instructor or the Department Head/Dean or to the designated contact person in their Faculty.

Copyright

All **students** are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorized sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

Support and Resources:

Non-course-specific related information can be found on the Office of the Registrar's website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>

Note: information here includes

- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success Centre

- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Safewalk